

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3817

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAID,UR , VN

SUBJ: NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION IN MOSCOW

1. A NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LE THANH NGHI HAS BEEN IN MOSCOW ABOUT ONE WEEK FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE MIXED SOVIET-VIETNAMESE COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

2. THE DELEGATION HAS BEEN MENTIONED ALMOST DAILY IN THE PRESS AND HAS MET VARIOUSLY WITH GOSPLAN CHIEF (AND DEPUTY PREMIER) KAYBAKOV, DEPUTY PREMIER AND SPECIALIST IN AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES V.N. NOVIKOV AND OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. ON AUGUST 25 LE THANH NGHI X
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WAS RECEIVED BY KOSYGIN. PRAVDA REPORTED THAT CON-

VERSTATION COVERED INTER ALIA SOVIET-VIETNAMESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION DURING THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DRV ECONOMY AND CONSTRUCTION OF "A MATERIAL-ECONOMIC BASE FOR SOCISLISM." LE THANH NGHI WAS ACCOMPANIED DURING KOSYGIN MEETING BY DRV DEPUTY GOSPLAN CHAIRMAN LE KHAK.

3. COMMENT- PRESENCE OF TOP-RANKING SOVIET PLANNING AND AID OFFICIALS IN THESE TALKS INDICATES THAT MAIN OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN MAPPING OUT SOVIET AID PROGRAM FOR DRV OVER PERIOD 1976-1980. SINCE LE THANH NGHI HAS FOR SVERAL YEARS BEEN LEADER OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TEAM WHICH MADE REGULAR "BEGGING" TOUR OF ALL "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" (WITH EXCEPTION OF YUGOSLAVIA), HE IS FULLY EXPERIENCED IN BARGAINING WITH SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS OF SOVIET PLANS OR COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, AND PROBABLY WILL NOT BE, WE DOUBT THAT AID PLANNED WILL BE MASSIVE OR DRAMATIC. IT WOULD SEEM PROBABLE, HOWEVER, THAT FUTURE ASSISTANCE WILL EXCEED AVERAGE ANNUAL ESTIMATED SOVIET ECONOMIC AID IN RECENT YEARS (DOLS 200 MILLION APPROXIMATELY. DETERMINING FACTOR WILL BE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUFFICIENT SOVIET ECONOMIC PRESENCE TO OFFSET ANY PRC VENTURES. MORE INTERESTING WILL BE SOVIET PLANS FOR AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM, OF WHICH NO MENTION HAS YET BEEN MADE IN SOVIET MEDIA. STOESEL

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